

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claims 1-6 and 11-28 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 7 and 9 as follows:

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A reaction product formed by reacting a carboxylic acid having from [1] 2 to 7 carbon atoms with urea where the molar ratio of carboxylic acid to urea is about 2:1.

8. (original) The reaction product of Claim 7 wherein said carboxylic acid is acetic acid.

9. (currently amended) The reaction product of Claim 7 wherein said carboxylic acid has the formula  $\text{RCOOH}$  where R is selected from the group consisting of [hydrogen,] substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

10. (original) The reaction product of Claim 9 wherein said urea has the formula  $(\text{NHR}')_2\text{CO}$  where each  $\text{R}'$  is the same or different and is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted alkoxy groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (cancelled)

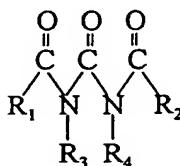
25. (cancelled)

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (cancelled)

29. (original) A treated seed comprising a plant seed to which has been applied an N,N' – substituted urea having the formula

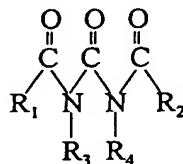


where R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxyl groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

30. (original ) The treated seed of Claim 29 wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen.

31. (original) The treated seed of Claim 29 wherein said plant seed has been soaked in an aqueous solution containing said N,N' – substituted urea.

32. (original) An improved plant seed comprising a seed to which has been applied an N,N' – substituted urea having the formula



where R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are the same or different and are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, substituted and unsubstituted alkyl, allyl, vinyl and alkoxyl

groups having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, substituted and unsubstituted phenyl groups and the halides.

33. (original) The improved plant seed of Claim 31 wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are hydrogen.

Clean copies of the amended claims are included in an Appendix attached hereto.